



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Your Reference: HL73688/ASG/LS  
Application No: GB 9926449.1

5 July 2001

Dear Sirs

**Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17(6)**

I enclose two copies of my two search reports relating to claims 6, 74-81 and claims 7,8, 82-88 and a copy of the citations.

These searches are in response to the further Patents Forms 9/77 filed on 8 June 2001.

**Plurality of invention**

As a result of the amendment which was filed on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2001, I will need to carry out a further search. The additional claims filed (claims 10-104) include independent claim 89 which appears to relate to a separate invention. Since only two further inventions have been searched (claims 7 & 8 being regarded as having the same inventive features) it is possible if requested, on filing a further Form 9/77 in respect of claim 89, to have the Fee already paid for the Form 9/77 filed in respect of claim 8 to be transferred to the new search request.

Yours faithfully

Ian Blackmore

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<sup>†</sup>Use of E-mail: Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



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Application No: GB 9926449.1  
Claims searched: 7,8,82-88

Examiner: Ian Blackmore  
Date of search: 4 July 2001

## Patents Act 1977 Further Search Report under Section 17

### Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:  
UK CI (Ed.S): E1F (FAC), (FJU), (FKU), (FLA).  
Int CI (Ed.7): E21B 17/08, 29/00, 29/10, 33/14, 43/08, 43/10.  
Other: Online: EPODOC, JAPIO, WPI.

### Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X,E	GB 2347446 A (WEATHERFORD/LAMB) see figures 1 & 3 and page 5, line 11 to page 6, line 2	7,8
X,P	GB 2326896 A (SOFITECH) see figures 6a-e and page 8, lines 12-32	7,8,85
&	WO 00/77431 A (SHELL) see whole document	7,8
X,P	WO 99/35368 A (SHELL CANADA) see figures 1, 2, & 4 and page 6, lines 1-17	7,8,85,86

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.



Application No: GB 9926449.1  
Claims searched: 6,74-81

Examiner: Ian Blackmore  
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### Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.S): E1F (FAC), (FJU), (FKU), (FLA), (FLT).

Int Cl (Ed.7): E21B 17/02, 17/08, 17/18, 33/14, 43/08, 43/10.

Other: Online: EPODOC, JAPIO, WPI.

### Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X,E	US 6017168 A (ABB VETCO GRAY) see whole document	6
&	WO 00/77431 A (SHELL) see whole document	6

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.